GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1324
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Pro-corporate Issues at WTO
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the attempts being made by the rich nations to introduce new "pro-corporate issues" such as global value chains, digital economy, labour and climate related trade into the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government has opposed the declaration made after the WTO"s ministerial conference recently held in Nairobi;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the alliance of developing countries in order to prevent these attempts by rich nations and to check raising of new issues at WTO; and
(e) whether India is pitching for a Trade Facilitation Agreement in services at the WTO and other bilateral free trade pacts as the sector has huge potential and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) &(b) India is cognizant of the issue and has been proactively working with other members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), currently on the table of the WTO. While some members wished to identify and discuss issues other than the remaining issues in the DDA, others - mostly developing country members - did not agree. It was agreed in Nairobi that any decision to launch negotiations multilaterally on such issues would have to be taken by consensus. This is reflected in the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration. It acknowledges the differences in views and states that any decision to launch negotiations multilaterally on any new issues would need to be agreed by all Members.
(c) &(d) The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration was adopted by consensus. India continues to work with other developing country members and groupings such as the G-33 to advance its negotiating objectives.
(e) Services are an important part of India's trade and India is endeavouring to promote and facilitate its services trade by seeking the removal of trade restrictive measures adopted by various countries.
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